



Kevin Babcock,
General Manager/
CEO

SAFETY IS A TRADITIONAL VALUE

Electricity is an integral, yet easily overlooked, part of our everyday lives. May is National Electrical Safety Month. Cultivating the culture of electrical safety is a foundational value at Jackson Electric Cooperative, not only for the employees, but also for the members and general public.

Right-of-Way Vegetation Management – In 2015, Jackson Electric spent more than \$600,000 in vegetation management of trees and shrubs near power lines that could potentially cause a power outage. The concern is not only outages, but public safety. The temptation for someone to climb a tree or build a treehouse near a power line could possibly be prevented if trees are cleared from the power line corridor.

Line Patrol/Inspection – When Jackson Electric's line superintendent and line crew inspect the lines, the cooperative is taking a proactive approach to prevent any potential issues before they become problems. When the crew is on line patrol, they look for danger trees, broken strands, loose hardware, equipment barriers, and line clearances.

Accident Investigation and Near Miss Reporting – This is a fact-finding approach to determine why an incident happened and what can be done so the incident doesn't happen again.

Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) – RESAP is a continuous improvement cycle towards safety excellence. It entails leadership commitment, total organizational assessment which identifies

strengths and areas for improvement, the development and implementation of a safety improvement plan, and recognition for safety improvements. This year, Jackson Electric will take part in an unannounced visit and assessment conducted by RESAP representatives.

Monthly In-House Safety Meetings – Conducted by Dairyland Power, Jackson Electric employees receive current information in regards to safety requirements and measures. During these monthly meetings, equipment is also inspected.

Hazard Recognition Training/Education – Jackson Electric works with community and youth organizations, First Responders, and volunteer fire departments to recognize electrical hazards and what to do to prevent electrical injury or death.

First Aid/CPR/AED Training – Jackson Electric employees are trained and certified in first aid, CPR, and AED device operation. AEDs are readily accessible in many of the Jackson Electric trucks and the office.

Diggers Hotline Program – Remember to call 8-1-1 two or three days before putting the shovel in the ground. This is a service that Jackson Electric provides for its members so that underground facilities can be located.

Public Safety Literature – Safety handouts are always available from our office, and the Residential Planting Guide can be found online at www.jackelec.com.

Safety is not taken lightly at Jackson Electric. It is our goal to make sure everyone goes home safe every day after work. It's also our goal to promote electrical safety often to the general public.



1. When a tree branch falls on a power line, it could potentially cause a fire. This is demonstrated to the area first responders and fire departments as part of a hotline presentation by Jackson Electric. 2. Ben Bella, safety and compliance for Jackson Electric, discusses electrical safety with youth at an annual community safety day program. 3. Safety meetings are held monthly at Jackson Electric. Pole-top rescues are practiced in the unfortunate event that a lineman is injured while working on top of a power pole. As part of this training, a 180-pound mannequin is positioned on the pole, mirroring an injured lineman. Each of Jackson Electric's linemen is required to climb the pole in this training exercise. 4. Jackson Electric lineman Matt Bush talks with students about power line safety during a summer tractor safety course.



MOVING FORWARD WITH POSITIVE CHANGES HIGHLIGHTED AT ANNUAL MEETING

The exquisite ringing of bells from the Blair-Taylor High School Bell Choir welcomed members and guests to the Jackson Electric Cooperative's 79th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 22, at the Lunda Theatre in Black River Falls.



Board president Gary Woods welcomes members to the annual meeting.

Jackson Electric's board president Gary Woods highlighted some of the steps that were taken the past year to build positive changes within the cooperative. A member survey was conducted in the spring and fall which

helped to identify key issues and priorities. The directors and management worked together with a strategic consultant to determine a long-term vision for the cooperative. From this, a strategic plan that focuses on member service and community, technology, service reliability, and rates was created, approved, and implemented.

He informed the membership that a third-party accounting firm was hired to review the financials of the cooperative, and a financial plan has been implemented that ensures wise management of controllable costs and risk.

General Manager/CEO Kevin Babcock shared that the kilowatt-hour sales were down in 2015, but the cooperative

still had a financially strong year. He noted that weather impacts electricity sales. He discussed the Commitment to Community program through which dollars are collected for energy efficiency and low-income programs. He spoke on the investment the cooperative makes for electric service reliability programs. He praised the employees for their involvement in community activities and the monetary donations that are given to local organizations.

Guest speaker Brian Rude, vice president of external and member relations from Dairyland Power, discussed how the Clean Power Plan will impact generation and member rates. He also gave an overview of Dairyland Power's distributed generation projects.

Babcock presented the \$1,500 Youth

Ambassador Scholarship to Joe Stange, son of Tom and Patti Stange of rural Sparta.

Director Jerry Huber presented a \$1,000 Mike Anderson Memorial to the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Duane Waldera accepted the memorial and stated it will be used for safety equipment.

Three directors were ratified and began their new three-year term following the annual meeting. The directors ratified were Stanley Gran, district 1; Jerry Wagner, district 6; and Gary Woods, district 9.

Following the meeting, the board of directors elected Gary Woods, president; Jerry Huber, vice president; and Dave Peasley, secretary/treasurer. Jerry Huber will represent Jackson Electric on Dairyland Power's board of directors.



1. Members of the Blair-Taylor High School Bell Choir perform before the annual meeting.
2. Members attend the annual meeting to learn about the operations of their cooperative.

SAFETY Q & A

Smoke alarms in your home should be tested _____ to ensure they work properly.

- a) once a month
- b) once a year
- c) once a day

Answer: B



JEC LINEMAN PROMOTED

Jackson Electric Cooperative announces the promotion of Brian Schultz from lineman to foreman. Schultz will officially begin his new role on May 1.



Schultz started his career at the co-op in 2001, first as a 1,000-hour employee for two summers, then as an apprentice lineman. While a lineman for Jackson Electric, he has received specialized training in the areas of stray voltage and power quality. As foreman, he is responsible for the daily work activities for the line crew. He is also the backup to Line Superintendent Eric Steien.

Brian and his wife, Amy, have two children. In their free time, they enjoy outdoor activities such as camping, fishing, boating, and snowmobiling.

Congratulations, Brian.

REMINDER FOR BUDGET BILLING PLAN PARTICIPANTS

Members on the Budget Billing Plan will receive a bill in May, which is considered the “clean-up” month. Your remaining payment on your budget billing plan is due on or before June 1, 2016.

To find out what your remaining balance is, please contact our office.

SAFETY Q & A

What should you do if you are outdoors and hear thunder?

- Hide under a tree
- Seek shelter indoors and wait at least 30 minutes
- Stand still

Answer: B



FACILITY CHARGE SERIES CONTINUES...

The facility charge includes all costs associated with building and maintaining the electric distribution system that makes power available at your location. These costs are included as part of the facility charge and are shared equally among all meters on our lines. The facility charge does not include the actual amount of electricity that you use. That is the energy charge which is billed in kilowatt-hours (kWhs).

A component included in the facility charge is overhead wire and underground cable. Jackson Electric’s crews maintain more than 887 miles of overhead distribution line and 574 miles of underground cable, totaling 1,461 miles. When you see crews replacing the overhead lines, it is because the existing wire is beyond its useful economic life and to improve service reliability. There are times when it is beneficial to convert overhead line to underground cable.



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW HOME INCENTIVE

Depending on your new home’s energy efficiency level, you could be eligible for an incentive up to \$500. Jackson Electric Cooperative’s New Home Program is designed for members who construct new homes with energy efficient design and construction.

To qualify your new home for this incentive, you must work with a qualified rater or inspector prior to building, and the home must meet specific guidelines for thermal and performance standards. Homes built to these standards, according to Touchstone Energy, provide the homeowner with lower energy costs, healthier indoor air quality, improved building durability, and increased market value.

To download the New Home Program application form, go to www.jackelec.com/content/rebates-and-incentives or contact our office for more information to help you build an energy efficient home.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS DEADLINE MAY 27

Jackson Electric Cooperative sponsors students who will be high school sophomores, juniors, or seniors in the fall to the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association’s (WECA) Youth Leadership Congress at UW–River Falls July 13–15. Enrollment and transportation costs are covered by Jackson Electric. If you’re interested in attending, please contact Carol at cblaken@jackelec.com or by calling the office. More information on this event can be found at www.jackelec.com.

PLANNING A NEW BUILD?

If you’re planning to build a house, shed, or livestock facility and need electric service installed, please contact Jackson Electric Cooperative to schedule an appointment to discuss your electric service needs. We can also help you with electric heating and cooling options, water heating, and Energy Star rebates for residential, business, and agricultural.



By Ron Blado,
Member Services
Manager

SUMMER LOAD MANAGEMENT HOURS BEGIN MAY 1

A reminder that starting May 1, the load management hours will switch from winter to summer hours. These hours will be in effect until October 1. To learn more about the Summer Load Management hours, go to www.jackelec.com and click on Load Control Schedule tab. Full Load Control events will be announced on WWIS and WAXX affiliated radio stations and on Jackson Electric Cooperative's Facebook page and website.

As a review, load management is a strategy that allows Jackson Electric Cooperative to shed electric load when

the demand for electricity is at its highest. This load reduction helps minimize the demand cost to the cooperative. Residential members who voluntarily participate in the program typically have a load management receiver wired in their breaker box to manage electric water heaters and electric heating and cooling systems. Commercial members may also participate in shedding load by limiting the use of equipment during peak demand periods or with the use of a stand-by generator.

The demand during the summer is more costly than during the winter. This is mostly due to higher electric demand for refrigeration and air conditioning use by homeowners and businesses. As sea-

sons change from winter to summer and back, the hours of daily demand change. Our power supplier, Dairyland Power, administers and implements the load management schedule for participating electric cooperatives. Three types of load management schedules are included on the chart and listed below:

- Full load control events will occur in June, July, and August when electric demand is at its highest. During the summer months, this strategy will occur approximately three times each month. Alerts are announced on the radio stations mentioned earlier, and commercial/agricultural members receive text and e-mail alerts.
- Economic control can occur any time between the start and end times (see chart), depending on energy market prices. When a full load control event is issued, economic control will not be implemented.
- Daily energy storage is used to manage dual fuel electric water heaters, which are controlled Monday through Friday; no control on weekends or holidays.

To learn more about the load management program, please contact our office.

Summer Load Management Hours May 1 – October 31		
FULL LOAD CONTROL (Events issued in June, July, and August when energy demand is at its highest.)		
Load Description/Class	Load Management Start Time	Load Management End Time
Residential Water Heaters (1B) (Does not include water heaters on the dual fuel program)	1:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
Dairy Water Heaters (4A)	1:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.
Dual Fuel Air Conditioners (2A, 2B, 2C, 2W, 4B) (Cycled on/off every 15 minutes)	12:45 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
ECONOMIC CONTROL (Can occur any time between start and end times. This control period is dependent on energy market prices only.)		
Residential Water Heaters (1B) (Does not include water heaters on the dual fuel program)	6:00 p.m.	12:00 a.m.
Dairy Water Heaters (4A)	6:00 p.m.	11:00 p.m.
Dual Fuel Air Conditioners (2A, 2B, 2C, 2W, 4B) (Cycled on/off every 15 minutes)	6:00 p.m.	10:30 p.m.
DAILY ENERGY STORAGE (Dual fuel water heaters controlled Monday–Friday; no control on weekends or holidays)		
Dual Fuel Water Heaters	11:30 a.m.	8:30 p.m.

SAFETY Q & A

It is safe to leave the kitchen with a burner on, as long as it is a short amount of time.

- a) True
- b) False

Answer: False. You should never leave a kitchen burner unattended.



Customer Service 715.284.5385
800.370.4607
Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)
Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511
www.jackelec.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 546
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Board of Directors: Gary Woods, President
Jerry Huber, Vice President
David Peasley, Secretary-Treasurer
Daniel Smrekar, Junior Jacobson, Stanley Gran, Brian Huber, Chris Curran, Jerry Wagner

Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

Jackson Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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